

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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COMICEDEFOR

NISRA KEFLAVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 1510

LONDON PASS AMBASSADOR IRVING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SECRET NATO REPORT ON ICELAND

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPER, MORGUNBLADID, TODAY CARRIED STORY CONCERNING ALLEGED "SECRET REPORT OF NATO MILITARY COUNCIL" REGARDING DANGERS TO ICELAND FROM SOVIET UNION IF IDF WERE WITHDRAWN. STORY WHICH ORIGINATED WITH NTB, CLAIMS THAT IF NATO BASE WERE LOST, ABILITY OF ALLIANCE FOR QUICK MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO NORWAY AND OTHER PLACES ON NORTHERN FLANK WOULD BE BADLY AFFECTED. PAPER ALSO SUPPOSEDLY WARNED AGAINST EFFECT WHICH LOSS WOULD HAVE ON NATO WARNING SYSTEM AND SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET SUBMARINES IN NORTH ATLANTIC AREA. AFTER POINTING OUT THAT SOVIET MANOEUVERS IN RECENT YEARS SHOW INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF OCEANS AROUND ICELAND AND GREENLAND, PAPER ALLEGEDLY ENDS BY ARGUING THAT IF ICELAND WERE DEMILITARIZED, POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE AGAINST NORTHERN FLANK OF NATO WOULD BE GREATLY INCREASED.

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2. MORGUNBLADID REPORTED THAT IT HAD ASKED AP AGENCY TO CHECK STORY IN BRUSSELS AND NATO SPOKESMAN HAD DENIED SUCH REPORT EXISTED. FONMIN AGUSTSSON, WHO RETURNED FROM BRUSSELS DEC. 11, SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF SUCH PAPER AND DOUBTED ITS EXISTENCE.

3. LOCAL SOURCE WHO ACCOMPANIED INDEPENDENCE PARTY DELEGATION VISITING NORWEGIAN DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS LAST WEEK SAID DOCUMENT ALONG ABOVE LINES HAD BEEN PREPARED BY NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND CIRCULATED TO HEADS OF NORWEGIAN POLITICAL PARTIES. HE THOUGHT NTB STORY MIGHT HAVE ORIGINATED FROM MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THAT DOCUMENT. MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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